

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L NAIROBI 7890

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FOR MOSSE FROM HARROP

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, PBOR, SOKE, ET, DJ
SUBJECT: DRAFT EVENING READING FOR PRESIDENT ON DEMARCHE TO
KENYANS REGARDING SOMALIA

1. IN NAIROBI TODAY, BILL HARROP OF MY AFRICA BUREAU ACCOMPANIED BY
AMBASSADOR LE MELLE BRIEFED KENYAN FOREIGN MINISTER WAIYAKI ABOUT
OUR PLANS TO PROCEED WITH A MILITARY SURVEY TEAM TO SOMALIA WHICH
COULD LEAD TO PROVISION OF LIMITED DEFENSIVE EQUIPMENT. HARROP
EXPLAINED OUR REQUIREMENT OF ASSURANCES FROM SIAD BARRE THAT HE
WOULD RESPECT THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF HIS NEIGHBORS, AND READ
THE TEXT OF THE LETTER DICK MOOSE OBTAINED FROM BARRE. HARROP
STRESSED THAT WE HAD MADE VERY CLEAR TO PRESIDENT BARRE THAT
MATERIAL SUPPORT BY THE SOMALI GOVERNMENT FOR INSURGENT GROUPS WOULD
BE INCONSISTENT WITH HIS ASSURANCES, COULD JEOPARDIZE OUR DEVELOPING
RELATIONSHIP AND COULD MAKE ANY ARMS SUPPLY RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE
US AND SOMALIA IMPOSSIBLE.

2. HARROP SAID THIS OVERTURE TOWARD SOMALIA WAS IN THE CONTEXT OF
OUR DETERMINED SEARCH FOR STABILITY IN THE HORN. WE WISHED TO
DEMONSTRATE TO THE SOMALI PEOPLE THAT SOMALIA'S TURN AWAY FROM THE
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PAGE 02 NAIROB 07890 242339Z

USSR HAD NOT LEFT THEM ISOLATED. WE BELIEVED THAT A LIMITED AND
CAREFULLY MANAGED MILITARY RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE US AND SOMALIA
WOULD SERVE TO CONTAIN SOMALI IRRIDENTISM AS WELL AS TO REDUCE ANY
SOMALI TEMPTATION TO RENEW ITS ALLIANCE WITH THE SOVIETS, WHICH COULD
BE DANGEROUS FOR KENYA. HARROP ALSO ASSURED WAIYAKI THAT THE UNITED
STATES GOVERNMENT WOULD SHORTLY REVIEW THE REPORT OF OUR MILITARY
SURVEY TEAM TO KENYA AND THAT WE INTENDED TO MOVE FORWARD QUICKLY

TO ASSIST KENYA IN MEETING ITS LEGITIMATE DEFENSIVE NEEDS.

3. FINALLY, HARROP DISCUSSED OUR CONCERN OVER THE SITUATION IN ETHIOPIA, THE CONTINUING MASSIVE SOVIET AND CUBAN PRESENCE, AND THE APPARENT COMMITMENT OF THE ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT TO A POLICY OF MILITARY FORCE IN ERITREA. HE ALSO EXPRESSED OUR DISSATISFACTION WITH THE RECENT JOINT ETHIOPIAN-KENYAN COMMUNIQUE WHICH SAID THE TWO GOVERNMENTS WOULD CONSIDER AS AN UNFRIENDLY ACT THE PROVISION OF ANY MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO SOMALIA. THIS SEEMED QUITE INAPPROPRIATE IN VIEW OUR PLANS TOWARD SOMALIA, SINCE THE KENYANS UNDERSTOOD OUR POLICY OBJECTIVES AND THE STRONG CONDITIONS WE WOULD PLACE UPON ANY DEFENSIVE ASSISTANCE. HARROP ASKED THE FOREIGN MINISTER IF HE WOULD REGARD THE LONG TERM ENTRENCHMENT OF THE SOVIETS AND CUBANS IN A REVOLUTIONARY MARXIST ETHIOPIA AS POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS TO KENYA.

4. WAIYAKI DID NOT TAKE DIRECT EXCEPTION TO US POLICY TOWARD SOMALIA, ALTHOUGH HE SAID KENYA REMAINED CONVINCED THAT THE SOMALIS WOULD NEVER ABANDON THEIR DREAM OF A GREATER SOMALIA. HE SAID KENYA HAD INTELLIGENCE THAT SIAD WAS STILL SUPPORTING THE OGADEN INSURGENTS AND THAT SOMALI TROOPS IN DISGUISE WERE ONCE AGAIN CROSSING INTO THE OGADEN. NEITHER ETHIOPIA NOR KENYA CONSIDERED THE OGADEN WAR TO BE OVER UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, AND THEREFORE THE COMMUNIQUE HAD INTENTIONALLY BEEN PHRASED STRONGLY TO DISCOURAGE FURTHER SUPPORT (PARTICULARLY ARAB) FOR SIAD'S AGGRESSION.

5. WAIYAKI SAID THAT THE KENYANS HAD EVIDENCE OF CONTINUED SOMALI
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PAGE 03 NAIROB 07890 242339Z

CONTACTS WITH THE SOVIET UNION AND KENYAN INTELLIGENCE INDICATED THE SOMALI VICE PRESIDENT WAS PLANNING AN EARLY TRIP TO MOSCOW. WAIYAKI FELT THAT AN EARLY REVERSAL OF SOMALI POLICY BOACK TOWARD THE SOVIETS WOULD BE DIFFICULT, THOUGH HE COULD NOT EXCLUDE SUCH A DEVELOPMENT IF MOGADISCIO WERE UNABLE TO FIND OTHER SOURCES OF SUPPORT. HE HOPED THAT THE ARAB NATIONS SUPPORTING SOMALIA COULD BE INDUCED TO HELP TURN SIAD AWAY FROM HIS AGGRESSIVE INTENTIONS, AND HARROP ASSURED HIM THAT WE WERE URGING OUR ARAB FRIENDS TO ARGUE THIS POSITION WITH SIAD.

6. FINALLY, WAIYAKI ACKNOWLEDGED THAT A COMMUNIST ETHIOPIA BUTTRESSED BY THE SOVIETS AND CUBANS WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY CONSTITUTE A DANGER TO KENYA AND COULD UNDERTAKE SUBERSIVE EFFORTS. HOWEVER, WAIYAKI REITERATED HIS CONVICTION THAT ETHIOPIA WOULD NEVER BECOME GENUINELY COMMUNIST.

7. IT WAS CLEAR THROUGHOUT THIS EXCHANGE THAT THE KENYANS CONTINUE TO BE OBSESSED BY THE DANGER THEY SEE FROM SOMALIA, ALTHOUGH WAIYAKI WENT SOMEWHAT FURTHER THAN HE HAS PREVIOUSLY IN ACKNOWLEDGING A POTENTIAL RISK TO KENYA FROM THE SOVIETS AND CUBANS IN ETHIOPIA. HARROP BELIEVES THAT WE SHOULD PRESS FORWARD WITH DISCUSSION OF FURTHER MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO KENYA AND THAT WE WILL HAVE TO

CONTINUE ASSURING THE KENYANS ABOUT OUR RELATIONS WITH SOMALIA.
HOWEVER, WAIYAKI APPEARED TO ACCEPT THE RATIONALE FOR OUR POLICY AND
TO APPRECIATE THAT IN SEEKING TO LIMIT SOVIET INFLUENCE IN THE
HORN WE DO NOT INTEND TO SACRIFICE KENYAN INTERESTS. END OF DRAFT
NIGHT READING.

8. THIS WAS DICTATED IN A HURRY AND YOU WILL WANT TO BOIL IT
DOWN AND REMOVE REPETITION OF MAY NAME, BUT IS PROVIDES THE
ESSENTIALS. FULL REPORT WILL FOLLOW TOMORROW.
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